

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-3 and 4-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,692,210 to Mita et al ("Mita et al").

Claims 4 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 6, 11 and 12 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

The rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mita et al, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "an address memory accepting and storing address information related to a position of each portion of said input image data within said input image data for each respective portion of image data which has been processed by said plurality of processors." That is, the address memory accepts address information related to a position of image data within an image, and stores the accepted address information. The Office Action cites Mita, Fig. 30 and column 18, lines 1-8 as disclosing this feature of claim 1. However, it is respectfully submitted that the structure disclosed by Mita does not accept and store address information. For example, neither of address

generators 1605 and 1606 accept and store any address information. Address generator 1605 is a look-up table that accepts rotation angle and scan inputs and outputs corresponding scan outputs. Address generator 1606 is merely a counter that accepts a clock input and outputs main and auxiliary scan outputs. There is nothing to suggest that either address generator accepts and stores address information. *See* Figs. 32 and 33, and column 18, lines 42-45. Because Mita fails to disclose all elements of claim 1, Mita is distinguished by claim 1, as well as by claims 2-3, 5, and 14-15 which depend therefrom.

Amended claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, “a first memory accepting and storing arrangement information in said single image data for said plurality of divided data.” As provided above in respect of claim 1, this feature of claim 6 is not disclosed by Mita. Moreover, amended claim 6 further recites that “said arrangement information for each of said plurality of divided data being associated with whichever processor performs the prescribed processing of the divided data.” That is the arrangement information for each portion of the input image is associated with the processor that processes that portion of the image. Mita fails to disclose such an address memory. Accordingly, Mita is distinguished by claim 6, as well as by claims 7-10, which depend therefrom.

Amended claim 11 recites that “information indicating arrangement of each divided portion of said image data is associated with whichever processor processes the corresponding divided portion.” As provided above in regards to claim 1, this feature of claim 11, is not disclosed by Mita. Moreover, claim 11 further recites that “each of said plurality of processors processes plural portions of said divided image data.” That is, each processor processes more than one portion of the input image. In contrast, Mita discloses that each processor processes one corresponding portion of the input image. *See*, column 17, lines 64-65. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that Mita is distinguished by claim 11.

Amended claim 12 recites “that each of said first and second processors process plural portions of said input image.” As provided above in respect of claim 11, this

feature of claim 12 is not disclosed by Mita. Moreover, claim 12 further recites that "said first and second processors process said plural portions asynchronously with respect to each other." That is, the processors may start and stop processing portions of the input image without regard to when the other processor starts or stops processing a portion of the input image. Mita discloses that each processor begins and ends processing its respective block synchronously. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that Mita is distinguished by claim 12, as well as by claim 13 which depends therefrom.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mita et al, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

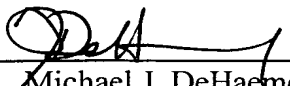
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

Application No. 09/438,247
Amendment dated March 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2005

and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account
No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Michael J. DeHaemer
Registration No. 39,164
Attorney for Applicants

MJD/lfb:jjk:bar
SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
Direct: (214) 981-3335
Main: (214) 981-3300
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400
March 10, 2006